

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

January 7, 2014

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is circulating new regulations to address toxic air contaminant emissions at large battery recycling centers. Large battery recycling centers emit various toxic substances, including, but not limited to, known carcinogens—lead, arsenic, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene. These toxins pose significant cancer and other health-related risks to the community. It is without dispute that exposure to arsenic, which is inhaled or enters the body orally, can cause lung, kidney, digestive tract and lymphatic cancer. Additionally, exposure can increase the risk of kidney, skin, lung, liver, and other cancers. Similarly, Benzene causes eye, nose, and throat irritation, can reduce blood cell count and compromises the central nervous system. Butadiene affects the heart, lung, and reproductive tissues and can also have neurological effects.

The proposed amended rule is a step in the right direction. The rule would assist in the enforcement and clean-up of Large Battery Recycling Centers throughout Southern California by adding new categories of emissions requirements and

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notifications when thresholds are exceeded. The SCAQMD would continue to inspect, test, and require mitigations. Residents, civic leaders, community-based leaders, religious and educational leaders in affected communities overwhelmingly support stronger enforcement against known “air polluters.”

The new rule, effective 60 days after adoption, would provide the SCAQMD with additional authority to enforce toxic air emission regulations against businesses that refuse to make the improvements to their air quality emission systems as required by law. While the rule maintains existing lead emission requirements, it would also require the following from affected facilities:

- Complete a Compliance Plan Schedule within 30 days of adoption of the proposed rule that lists all control measures designed to meet arsenic, benzene, and 1,3 butadiene emission limits.
- Meeting arsenic level thresholds requirements within 60 days of adoption of the proposed rule.
- Install equipment to measure and conduct periodic monitoring to determine whether smelting furnaces are operating with adequate pressure.
- Implement processes to curtail emissions if lead or arsenic emissions exceed thresholds.
- Comply with notification requirements and investigations of unplanned facility shutdowns.
- Notification requirements when ambient air emissions thresholds are exceeded.

- By June 1, 2014, implement a demonstration program to monitor arsenic, benzene, and 1,3 butadiene emissions.
- By January 1, 2015, meet the facility-wide point source emission level requirements for benzene, arsenic, and 1,3 butadiene.

SCAQMD's proposed amended rule is an important safeguard for the health of communities affected by toxic air contaminants emitted from lead-acid battery recycling facilities.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors support the Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1420.1: "Emissions standards for Lead and Other Toxic Air Contaminants from Large Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Facilities"; and send a five-signature letter to the SCAQMD Board in support of this Amended Rule prior to their January 10, 2014 hearing on this new regulation.